2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1953 MM1 Aden MM1

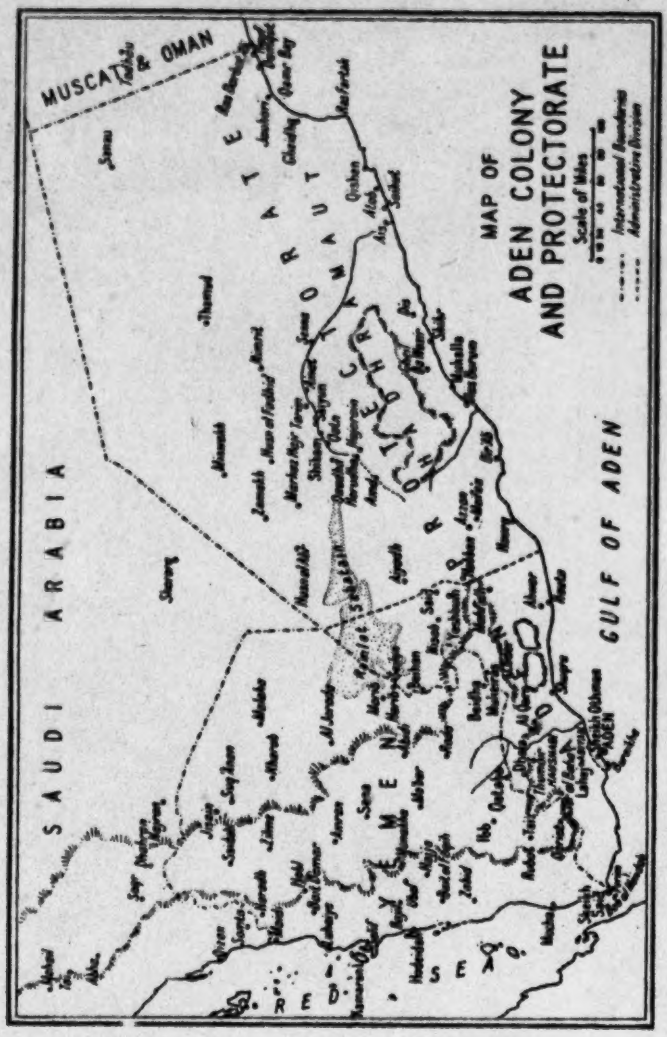
Foreword

Now at last Hickinbotham occupied a position in which the scope of his responsibilities included the Aden Protectorate as well as the Colony of Aden, for as Governor and Commander-in-Chief he was Governor of the Protectorate as well as Governor of the Colony. It has been thought by some that the term "Governor of the Aden Protectorate" is a misnomer, for it is not the policy of the British Government to govern the Protectorate directly, but to leave the control of its internal affairs to the local Arab Rulers in treaty relations with Her Majesty's Government. Under these treaties the British Government are bound to give the Rulers protection against external attack, and through the Governor of Aden the Rulers also receive, when necessary, assistance in preserving internal security and also advice and financial help. The Colony of Aden is a small, mainly urban, territory of about 75 square miles: the Protectorate is a largely mountainous and thinly populated area with comparatively small fertile cultivable parts and is about the same size as the United Kingdom. The role of the Governor in the Protectorate thus differs fundamentally from his position in the Colony, where he is the head of a direct administration, and the problems with which he has to deal in the two areas are very different.

The Arabs of the Protectorate tribes made a natural appeal to Hickinbotham, as they have done to many other British officers and others whose work has brought them into contact with them and who can understand their outlook on life. In this book he has given a fascinating account of the Protectorate and its people based on practical sympathy and intimate knowledge, as well as an interesting description of Aden Colony and his experience in it in successive capacities. Sir Tom's position as Governor of the Aden Colony and Protectorate also necessitated his playing an active part in dealing with the question of British relations with the Yemen, the independent Arab Kingdom which lies to the north of the western part of the Protectorate, and his book includes informative chapters about this troublesome problem.

It is a pleasure to me to commend this work to all those who seek reliable information about this part of the world and

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1 [p. XIV]



102
131
361
p33

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

narrow confines of the rocky headland on which Aden lies into the interior of the Protectorate; a land of hills and deserts and of wild and warlike people as lovable as they are childlike and wayward. I have met many people who have passed through Aden and they have all disliked it, while at the same time I have met almost as many people who have lived there and they have all spoken with affection of the place. Arabia is a hard mistress who conquers slowly but, having conquered, never, never relaxes her hold, nor does the victim wish for release.

The Colony of Aden, as it is known today, it was called the Settlement when I first went there as a Government servant, is quite a small area only 75 square miles in extent. In appearance it resembles a lobster's claw, a maimed lobster, with one half of the claw shorter than the other. The claw is open and between the two halves lies the harbour. On one side of the harbour is the peninsula of Aden proper, and on the other the peninsula of Little Aden, now re-named Bureikha—just two promontories jutting out into the Gulf of Aden. The one on which the town of Aden stands is connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, the other is almost part of the mainland. Both these promontories are hilly and are connected to each other by a narrow strip of plain running round the northern side of the harbour from Little Aden, widening considerably to include the town of Sheikh Othman and the village of Imad and eventually reaching the sea again at the Khormaksar beach some eight miles to the east of Aden town. The boundary of the Colony has been demarcated and has not been in dispute for many years. The island of Perim, which lies at the bottom end of the Red Sea, is part of the Colony, why, precisely, I have never been able to understand. Perim was at one time a relatively important coaling station, with a garrison of Indian Army troops, but now that coal has been superseded by oil it is deserted, except for the personnel of the two important lighthouses, a few fishermen, and a detachment of Armed Police from the Colony Police Force.

The main commercial centre of the Colony lies in the midst of the old volcano and is appropriately called "Crater". The trading and maritime suburbs of Tawahi (Steamer Point to

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

fascinated at a low rather disagreeable ridge at the end of the runway until it had passed underneath the aeroplane, or closed his eyes until he hoped that it had, depending entirely on his temperament. The rest of the journey was uneventful, and on arrival at Khormaksar, Macfadyen said to Portal:

"You came off very quickly, Sir."

"Yes, I hit something halfway down the runway, found myself in the air and thought I had better try and stay there," was the reply with a smile. He had stayed there, all was well, and so ended my first visit to the Audhali country.

The foregoing is just a preliminary introduction to the Protectorate and the independent people that live there, but I am afraid for the real understanding of much that I have got to say I shall have to give a more detailed description of the area.

On the south the Protectorate is bounded by the sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, and it stretches from the rocky outcrop of small hills at Sheikh Said in the south-west corner of Arabia opposite to the island of Perim, some 740 miles to the East to Ras Darbat Ali where begins the territory of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. The coast, except for the first 150 miles, is rugged with mountains rising steeply within a few miles of the beach; in places they rise abruptly from the sea, and for the most part, to use a nautical term, the coast is "steep to". Where the exception occurs is in the immediate neighbourhood of Aden itself, which is 100 miles from Sheikh Said and it is here that the coastal plain reaches its greatest depth of approximately 30 miles.

The next of the frontiers which can be quickly and easily described is that between the Protectorate and the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. It is a straight line drawn from Ras Darbat Ali at right angles to the coast in a northerly direction up into the Ruba al Khali or "Empty Quarter", the great central desert of Arabia. Unfortunately the Ruba al Khali is empty no longer for of recent years it has been rather overfull of oil prospectors, most of whom are American, but I shall refer to this later. At latitude 19°, the most northerly point of this frontier, there meet the lands of the Protectorate, the territory of Muscat and Oman and the territory claimed by His Majesty

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

King Saud bin Abdul Aziz Ahl Saud of Saudi Arabia. This eastern frontier has never been demarcated, nor has it ever been in dispute, Her Majesty's Government and His Highness Saiyid Said bin Taimur, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, being in agreement on this, as on many other subjects. It is, of course, understood by both Governments that from time to time, and in particular if and when demarcation becomes necessary, there may have to be minor adjustments. His Highness has always been a wise and good neighbour and there is no doubt that should adjustments in the frontier line have to be made, then good sense will prevail and mutual agreement will not be difficult to achieve. I wish that the Rulers of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen had proved such agreeable neighbours for then the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office and the Governor of Aden would have had a much easier time of recent years.

We come now to the most difficult frontiers, the western frontier separating the Protectorate from the Kingdom of the Yemen. In 1872 the Yemen had become, for the second time in the troubled history of that country, a part of the Ottoman Empire and was to remain a Turkish province until the end of the Great War of 1914–18. In 1902 it was decided by the British Government and the Sublime Porte that it was desirable to demarcate the frontier between the Turkish province of the Yemen and the territories of the Rulers in treaty relations with His Majesty's Government, in other words, the Aden Protectorate. One of the main reasons for this was to prevent border disputes which must always arise when a frontier has not been clearly defined on the ground and where the tribes under the authority of one country are at enmity with those under the authority of the other. Demarcation does not automatically stop these squabbles but it does make the determination of guilt easier and enables action to be taken quickly, always an essential, to punish the offenders. In that year the Anglo-Turkish Boundary Commission began their work at Sheikh Said in the extreme south-west corner of Arabia. The work was very difficult, not only because innumerable territorial tribal disputes had to be resolved, but also because of the

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

mountainous nature of the country in which the Commission had to work. As they moved farther and farther into the interior in a north-easterly direction the mountains became more and more inaccessible, but by 1903 they had reached Dhala the capital of Amirate of the same name which had come into treaty relations with Her Majesty's Government in 1880. In 1904 the Boundary Commission was withdrawn, the demarcation having been completed only as far as a high point slightly north-north-east of the Yemen town of Qataba.

The decision to withdraw the Boundary Commission and abandon the further demarcation of the frontier was due in part to the difficulty of operating in the high mountains of Yafa which the Commission would have had to face next, and in part to the fact that as the Commission moved farther into the interior of Arabia the degree of effective control by the Turks and ourselves on our respective sides of the frontier became less and less. It was decided, therefore, by the two Governments that from there on they should define their respective spheres of influence by means of a line drawn on the map. A violet line; the colour is important, because the habit of drawing lines on a map is infectious, and we shall see when we come to the northern frontier of the Protectorate that more lines have been drawn on the map of Arabia, all of different colours.

The violet line started from the last point demarcated and was drawn at an angle of 45° up into the northern reaches of the Ruba-al-Khali. It then turned abruptly due north and ran up to the base of the Qatar Peninsula. Qatar, one of the rich oil-producing areas of the world, is a British Protected Sheikhdom jutting out into the Persian Gulf. The demarcated line and the violet line thus became the dividing line between the spheres of influence in Arabia of the British Empire and the Turkish Empire. The agreement was ratified by both Governments in 1914 as the Anglo-Turkish Convention.

There has been one very serious contravention of this frontier line and that was in the early nineteen-twenties, when the Imam of the Yemen overran the Rassasi Sultanate which lay on the Protectorate side of the violet line between the Protectorate States of the Audhali Sultan and the Sharif of

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

131
648

Beihan. The Rassasi Sultan was not in treaty relation with the British Government. He had expressed a strong desire in 1914 when the Audhali Sultan entered into treaty relations with us, to do the same, but the Government of Bombay, after reference to the Government of India, who were careful of their money where Aden was concerned, was not prepared to find the hundred pounds or so a year which the Rassasi Sultan insisted upon as an annual gift. The Rassasi Sultans have never ceased to regret the failure of the negotiations. The present Ruler is a prisoner, if indeed he is still alive, in the State Prison in Sana, the ancient capital of the Yemen.

Lastly we come to the northern frontier line which joins the eastern and western frontiers across the Ruba-al-Khali. It is a simple matter to put it on the map. Just take a point on the blue line rather north of latitude 18° and draw a reasonably straight line (it is not quite straight at the beginning) eastward to join the eastern frontier at latitude 19°. It is all very easy to do now, but this simple line represents years of consultation and endless conferences. It had a number of predecessors and they were all of different colours, red, blue and black, some were ours and some were other peoples, but generally speaking they all represented a British reverse at the conference table. It was all very unfortunate and where we should have ended will, I am glad to say, never be known, for there occurred two fundamental changes. Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, that astute and absolute Ruler of Saudi Arabia, that really great man, died, and the wastes of Arabia became peopled with oil prospectors.

By 1955 the oil search had been carried by the Americans, who operate the Dhahran concession in Saudi Arabia, right down into the southern reaches of the Ruba-al-Khali and the Iraq Petroleum Company, through their satellite Petroleum Concessions Limited, who hold the exploration concession for the Aden Protectorate, were engaged actively in their exploration work and were moving steadily northward. Something had to be done and it had to be done quickly. It was. Her Majesty's Government announced what was, in effect, the *de facto* northern frontier of the Protectorate, the present line I have described and at the same time it was indicated to those

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

interested that trespassers would be dealt with in an appropriate manner; as indeed they were in 1955, as we shall see.

This northern frontier follows very closely the territorial limits of the bedouin tribes, who are based on the Aden Protectorate, rather I should say, it follows the limits of their home grazing areas, for they are great travellers and wander far up into Saudi Arabia when scarcity of grazing forces them to take their herds of camels farther and farther afield; just as the Saudi Arabian tribes came south into the Protectorate when their own grazing has suffered from lack of rain. One often hears a lot of nonsense about being as free as the Arab of the desert. The Arab of the desert is no more free than the city worker who has to catch the 7.30 a.m., or whatever train it may be, to London, on five days of the week. The Arab must go where God has willed the rain to fall and the grass and other herbage to grow, otherwise he and his flock will die; he is not free to wander at will, he is bound, inexorably bound to follow the rain.

Another advantage of this line is that it follows generally, but not exactly, the southern limits of the great sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali, dunes which are clearly defined and which rise in places to several hundred feet, almost one could say a natural frontier. Lastly, it is the limit of our effective control and although it is not ideal, it is practical and definite and not subject to yet another conference.

So much for the limits of the Protectorate, and now I must correct a misapprehension which seems to be fairly general with regard to its size. Many people in this country are under the impression that the Aden Protectorate is a small area approximating in size to that of one of the larger English counties; in fact, of course, it is nearly twenty-five per cent. larger than the whole of the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland. In the west it is predominantly hilly, once the coastal plain is crossed, and the average height of the territory is some 3,500 ft., that is very nearly as high as Snowdon. The mountain ranges run east and west and are separated by plains and plateaus, each successive range being higher than the last until, on the line of Yafa and the Audhali country, the mountains reach a

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

643 course, exceptions and in Lahej, for example, the electoral college is composed not only of the heads of the branches of the Ruling family, but also of the Sheikhs of the principal tribes and the senior Qadhi, but generally speaking it is the family who make the choice for tribal approval.

In Dhala on this occasion the new Amir was selected after a bitter disagreement between two of his uncles, and an attempt on the part of the family council to avoid having to make a decision by asking for direct British administration. The troublesome uncle, having failed to ensure that a large proportion of the State revenue would in future be devoted solely to the support of himself and his family, abstained from voting in the council meeting and fled that same night to the Yemen with his close relations, and was warmly welcomed there. The new Amir was very upset at what he considered to be a serious affront to his dignity, but, personally, I had no doubt that he was well rid of a particularly useless and disagreeable bunch of Qāt-ridden wasters.

AULAKIS

636 In the winter of 1951–52, the Aulaki adventure was making
• 131 good progress. The Aulakis are a virile and warlike clan whose
184 territory runs north and south along the western side of the administrative dividing line between the western and eastern sections of the Protectorate and are themselves divided into three States, the Lower Aulaki Sultanate in the south on the sea coast, then the Sheikhdom, an area of fierce barren hills with steep and narrow valleys, and in the north the more open table-lands of the Upper Aulaki Sultanate.

636 At this point a word of explanation is necessary about the administrative dividing line to which I have referred. This line came into being purely as an administrative convenience and should, in fact, never have been incorporated on the maps of the area because the Aden Protectorate is one indivisible whole. The reason why any administrative line became necessary was that at the period of history when it was first drawn in pencil on an old map, probably by the Governor, the British

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

smartly about and saluted and remained standing at attention until I held out my hand and then, in turn, they stepped forward and shook hands.

"I'll take them along," I said, and they followed me downstairs into the car.

When we reached the school the Sultan jumped out and ran into the building, but to my surprise his companion remained in the car.

"Come on, get out," I said to him.

"He will be back in a minute," said the boy.

"I thought you wanted to come back to the school," I said.

"Only to borrow two rupees for tea, sir. It's a holiday today, Sir."

At that moment the Sultan rushed breathlessly out of the building and flung himself into the back of the Land-Rover.

"And now where do you want to go?" I asked.

"Back to the town, please, sir," answered the Sultan, and opening his hand in answer to a whispered inquiry from his companion displayed two rupees.

So back we had to go. My momentary irritation at having to retrace my steps quickly gave place to satisfaction at the change in the lad. I was being used as a taxi-driver, but I had brought it on myself.

I dropped them in the main street, and after shaking hands they saluted very smartly, turned about with the precision of Guardsmen, then relaxed and ran off like the normal boys they were in search of refreshment.

BEIHAN

Up in the north of the western part of the Protectorate lies the State of Beihan, to which I paid many visits generally by air, but on one occasion by Land-Rover, coming in from the north-east across the sand dunes on the fringe of the Ruba-al-Khali, after an unforgettable tour of the northern Hadhrami Bedouin Legion Posts. Beihan is the home of the clever, adventurous, dynamic and above all loyal Sharif Hussein who, having ceased to be Regent for his son the Sultan in the first

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

636
643

nominated to succeed him as Sultan. Thus there came to the head of affairs in the premier State a young man, well educated, much travelled and full of promise. During the time I was Governor a great deal of progress was made in Lahej by the new Sultan, who as His Highness Sir Ali bin Abdul Karim, K.B.E., has taken considerable interest in the political development of the area and the economic prosperity of his State. Lahej was the first of the States to introduce a Legislative Council and now it is one of the major cotton growing areas, being blessed with the only perennial river in the whole of the western part of the Protectorate.

LOWER YAFA

131 Beyond the rich agricultural lands of the northern part of the Abiyan plain the Lower Yafa State stretches far up into the mountains to the highlands of Upper Yafa, a country of wild and hardy mountaineers who are more independent and individualistic than any other of the Protectorate tribes. The Lower Yafa State has two capitals, one in the lowland plains at Al Hasn and the other in the hills at Al Qara. This latter town is quite the most extraordinary one that I have seen anywhere in the world. It is built on the circular limestone cap of a very steep hill which looks like a truncated cone, and the town can be reached only by two very rough tracks, up which camels and donkeys can, with difficulty, make their way.

I was determined to visit Al Qara, partly out of sheer curiosity and partly because I was anxious to increase our influence in even the most remote areas of the Protectorate. Having obtained the willing agreement of the Sultan, the arrangements were made and my party, which consisted of the Director of Agriculture, the Director of the Protectorate Health Service, a Geologist who was making a survey of the Protectorate, a Political Officer or Assistant Adviser who was in charge of the expedition, and a personal friend, covered the first part of the journey by car from Aden along the Khormaksar beach and across the Abiyan plain to where the Bana river emerges from the hills. There we spent the night at a

3-Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

000

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF ADEN FOR 1938

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
I.	GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY	2
II.	GOVERNMENT	5
III.	POPULATION	6
IV.	HEALTH	6
V.	HOUSING	8
VI.	PRODUCTION...	11
VII.	COMMERCE	13
VIII.	LABOUR	16
IX.	WAGES AND COST OF LIVING	16
X.	EDUCATION, WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, AND RECREATION ...	17
XI.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT	21
XII.	PUBLIC WORKS	28
XIII.	JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS	28
XIV.	LEGISLATION	33
XV.	BANKING, CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES... ...	35
XVI.	PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION	36
XVII.	MISCELLANEOUS	37

I. GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY

Geography

131

The Colony of Aden is situated on the south coast of Arabia and is bounded on the seaward side by the Gulf of Aden and on the landward side by the Aden Protectorate. It comprises :—

101 361 133

(*a*) The peninsula, an extinct volcano in the crater of which lies the old town of Aden which is the main commercial and residential centre of the Colony. On the north shore is the modern harbour suburb of Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area usually referred to as Steamer Point, a large part of which is leased in perpetuity to the Air Ministry with the exceptions of the areas occupied by Government House, the Eastern Telegraph Company's buildings and the Political Secretary's house. To the North of Tawahi lies the dhow harbour and the village of Maala.

(*b*) The isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad and Buraikha and

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF ADEN FOR 1937.

CONTENTS.

Chapter		Page
I.	Geography, Climate and History	2
II.	Government	5
III.	Population	6
IV.	Health	6
V.	Housing	8
VI.	Production	9
VII.	Commerce	11
VIII.	Labour	13
IX.	Wages and Cost of Living	14
X.	Education, Welfare Institutions and Recreation	14
XI.	Communications and Transport	18
XII.	Public Works	24
XIII.	Justice, Police and Prisons	24
XIV.	Legislation	30
XV.	Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures	30
XVI.	Public Finance and Taxation	31
XVII.	Miscellaneous	33
	Map	36

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

131
101

The Colony of Aden is situated on the south coast of Arabia and is bounded on the seaward side by the Gulf of Aden and on the landward side by the Aden Protectorate. It comprises—

(*a*) the peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Aden Settlement to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the names of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan on which the buildings have been constructed, and lastly the dhow harbour and village of Maala;

(*b*) the isthmus known as Khormaksar;

(*c*) an area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad and Buraikha and Fakum, the last two on the Little Aden peninsula are situated in this area;

(*d*) the island of Perim.

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

DESCRIPTION.

The Aden peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valleys between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain on which has been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Naval wireless station, the Aden Protectorate Levy lines, and the golf course. Owing to lack of building space at Tawahi, dwelling-houses for senior Government officials have recently been constructed here. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Settlement.

PERIM.

Perim island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, is bare, rocky, and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet (65 m.) high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry watercourses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the subsoil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. Perim was at one time of importance as a coaling station, and also from the Eastern Telegraph Company's station and Lloyd's signal station being situated there.

Climate.

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The maximum day temperature recorded was 100·3 in June, and the minimum was 68·1 in December. The rainfall totalled 8 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e. during the north-west monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e, from June to September, a hot sandy wind known as Shimal prevails on the peninsula, but on its western side the breezes are

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-2(1949)1949 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises:

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maala.

(*b*) The isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky

Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal-light, lie on the southern side of the island. It possesses a good small harbour on the south-west side, with an entrance 860 yards in breadth, and an emergency landing-ground on the north side.

The climate of Aden Colony is not unhealthy, though the heat and humidity are trying between April and October. During the north-east monsoon—that is, between the latter part of October and April—the climate is generally cool and pleasant. During the south-west monsoon—that is, in July and August—strong winds prevail which give some relief from the damp airless heat of May, June and September. Sandstorms are apt to occur in the months of June, July and August. These come from a northerly direction, usually a short time before sunset, and are often very intense, though of short duration. The weather during July and August is frequently very hazy, and it is not uncommon for ships to pass quite close to Aden without picking up the land.

The rainfall is extremely scanty, and in some years non-existent, but as much as 8 inches have been known to fall in a year.

Chapter 2: History

Aden has been a place of importance historically owing to its possession of the only good harbour situated on the main ocean trade-route between Egypt and India and to the fact that it is easily defensible. Before the discovery of the Cape route in the fifteenth century, the trade followed much the same course as the main trade-route between the East and the West does to-day, across the Indian Ocean to Aden, thence up the Red Sea and across Egypt to the Mediterranean. There can be little doubt that in Roman and earlier times Aden was a port of considerable significance, although its relative importance compared with other towns on the Arabian coast is not at present known. The discovery of the Cape route at the end of the sixteenth century diverted the major portion of the trade from the old Red Sea route, and in consequence the port of Aden declined. Aden was attacked by the Portuguese in 1513 and 1516, captured by the Turks in 1538 and remained in their hands about 100 years, when the Yemen Arabs rebelled and drove the Turks out; Aden thus came under the Imams of Sana, who never have renounced their claim to it. In 1728 the Sultan of Lahej, the ruler of the territory adjacent to Aden, revolted and established his independence, and included Aden in his Sultanate.

The decline of Aden continued until its capture by the British in 1839, when its village consisted of 500 inhabitants. Financial negotiations with the Sultan of Lahej having failed, the plundering of an Indian ship

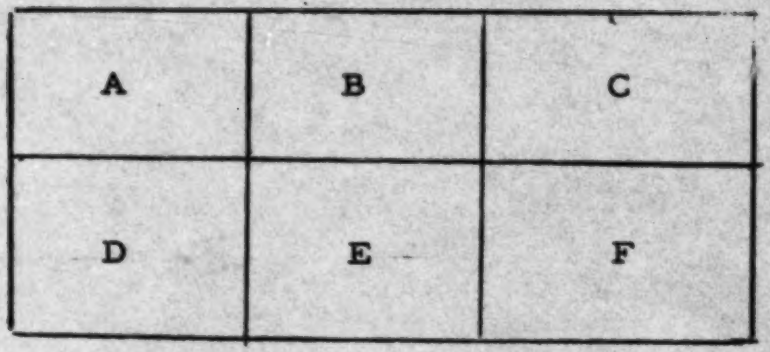


Chart of position of sections of end map 1.

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

131 THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude
361 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the
712 southern coast of Arabia. It comprises :
504

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(*b*) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

133 The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ; Jebel
361 Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

712 The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the
241 aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there.
[423

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

317 Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

133 Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted
504 shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour

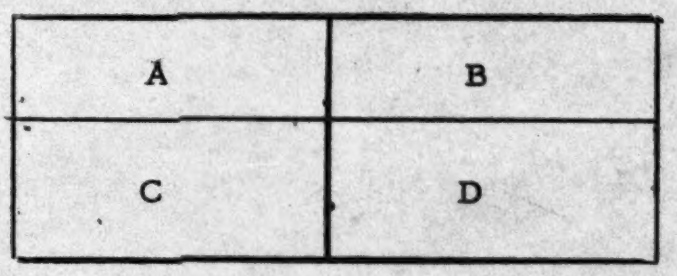


Chart of position of sections of end map 1.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises : 131 361

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(*b*) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula. 133 361

The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. 133 368

Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Township Authority, and there are some privately-owned date-palms there. Hiswa also has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony. 241

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward at its southern extremity is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. It possesses a good small harbour on the south-west side, with an entrance 860 yards in breadth, and a small air landing ground. 133 134 368 504

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

131 THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude
361 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises :

(a) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to
[712] which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(b) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(c) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area, and it is on the Little Aden Peninsula that the new refinery and township are being built.

(d) The island of Perim.

133 The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ;
504 Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some
361 turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

505 The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate
367 Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines, the golf course and polo ground.
133 It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula.

Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable
241 and fruit garden belonging to the Township Authority, and there are
245 some privately-owned date-palms there. Hiswa also has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

133 Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare,
134 rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward at its southern extremity is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the
504 southern side of the island. It possesses a good small harbour on the south-west side, with an entrance 860 yards in breadth, and a small air landing ground.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

504 The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that
131 it is a refuelling station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil.
439 It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade routes to the oil companies' production centres in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused a general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and the African coast.

175 Perim Island was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the
631 British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent, but on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden.

Chapter 3: Administration

642 Since 1937, when the territory was taken from the control of the
643 Government of India and put under the Colonial Office, the consti-
645 tution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

Under the Royal Instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officers lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, of Attorney General and of Financial Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by Her Majesty by any instructions or warrants under her sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony, appoint in pursuance of instructions from Her Majesty through one of her principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the Royal Instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he may summon such person, for such special occasions, as an extraordinary Member of the Council.

646 Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, four *ex officio* members, not more than four official members and not more than eight unofficial members.

161 Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by
226 an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The
625 population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are
659 fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. There is a small police detachment in the island together with medical and lighthouse staff.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Aden MMI

edge of the Rub al-Khali desert. The depth of the northern frontier from the southern coast varies from 50 miles in the west to 200 miles in the east.

ADEN COLONY

The area of the Crown Colony is small, only about 80 square miles, exclusive of its two dependencies: Perim Island (5 square miles) and the Kuria Muria Islands (30 square miles). The population of the Crown Colony was estimated at the end of 1950 at 100,000, an increase of almost 20,000 over the figure at the 1946 census. The increase was mainly due to the influx of Arabs from the Yemen at an average rate of 100–150 per week, for the most part to take casual unskilled employment at higher living standards and in greater security than in their own country. Some 2,000 traders and clerks, mainly from India, had also immigrated since the census, and in May 1950 new Immigration Rules were introduced to secure preference in employment and housing for the local population, of whatever race. The population of the Colony is approximately classified as follows: Arabs 79,500; Muslims (India and Pakistan) 8,500; Somalis 6,500; Hindus 3,500; Jews 1,500 (about 2,000 having departed for Israel); Europeans 500; Indian Christians and others 500.

From the date of its capture by the British in 1839 until 1923 Aden was administered under the Government of Bombay. For the next five years control was vested in the Governor-General of India in Council. Finally, on 1 April 1937 it was constituted a Crown Colony administered by a Governor who is responsible to the British Colonial Office and is assisted by an Executive Council. Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order of 1944, a Legislative Council was inaugurated in January 1947. It consists of the Governor as President; the Air Officer Commanding the British Forces in Aden, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary, as *ex-officio* members; four official members; and eight unofficial members, of whom at the end of 1950 four were British and four residents of Aden. Aden Colony also includes Perim Island (pop. 381) which is administered by the Commissioner of Police, Aden.

For local government purposes the Colony is divided into the Fortress Township, with a population estimated at 70,000, and the Shaikh Othman Township four miles away,[1] with a population of some 25,000. The members of both authorities were all nominated by the Aden Government until 1949, when provi-

[1] Shaikh Othman was sold to Britain by the Sultan of Lahej in 1882.

63 Simmons et al G-8 (1941-1961) 1964
MI Middle East

ADEN HH1
HADHRAMAUT HH2

10

Aden Colony and Protectorate

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Aden Colony and the tribal states comprising the Aden Protectorate have a long and varied history, but they have been under the influence of Great Britain for over a century. The Colony of Aden consists of two small peninsulas, located about 100 miles east of the straits of Bab el Mandeb, the short strip of connecting mainland, Perim Island at the entrance to the Red Sea, and the small offshore islands of Kuria Muria to the east. It became a British dependency in 1839, but remained under the jurisdiction of India until constituted a Crown Colony in 1937. Exclusive of the islands, the Colony has an area of about 75 square miles, 21 square miles of which comprise the peninsula of Aden proper. The historic settlement is located on a rocky promontory, 5 to 6 miles in width and 2 to 4 miles in length, which is connected with the mainland by a narrow isthmus. It is an

p. 235(A)